

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 07859 211736Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----117168 211739Z /47

O 211456Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6118

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 7859

NODIS

FOR INR SAUNDERS

E. O. 11652: XLT
TAGS: US IS EG XF
SUBJ: BRIEFING ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT

REF: STATE 301494

1. AM I RIGHT IN ASSUMING THAT MATERIAL CONTAINED REFTEL
ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT IS ALL WE INTEND PASS TO
SYRIANS? IN MEETING WITH DEPFONMIN AL-KHANI DEC 21 HE SAID
HE HAD SEEN TRANSCRIPT OF BRIEFING I HAD GIVEN
KHADDAM DECEMBER 19 BUT ASSUMED IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS YESTERDAY THAT WE WOULD BE PASSING
ON BEGIN'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. I REPLIED I DID NOT BELIEVE
WE INTENDED TO GET INTO SPECIFICS AT THIS TIME. HE
ASKED IF WE HAD GIVEN BEGIN'S PROPOSALS TO THE SOVIETS.
I SAID MY UNDERSTANDING, ON THE BASIS OF NEWS REPORTS,
WAS THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED VISIT WITH SOVIETS BUT WAS NOT INFORMED
RE EXTENT OF DETAIL WE HAD FURNISHED.

2. AP STRINGER LOUIS FARES TOLD POLOFF DECEMBER 21, THAT
SOVIET AMBASSADOR MET WITH FONMIN KHADDAM EVENING OF
DECEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
SOVIET AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY PROMISED KHADDAM TO REQUEST
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COPY OF BEGIN'S PROPOSAL WHICH USG HAD PASSED TO SOVIETS.
AMBASSADOR ANTICIPATED REPLY FROM MOSCOW WITHIN NEXT
TWO DAYS. ACCORDING TO FARES, SYRIANS WERE SOMEWHAT
SURPRISED THAT USG HAD NOT INFORMED THEM DIRECTLY OF
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BEGIN MADE.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MOST EMBARRASSING

TO ME IF SOVIET AMBASSADOR TURNS OVER DETAILS FURNISHED
MOSCOW BY US WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN PREPARED TO FURNISH
DIRECTLY TO SYRIANS.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEGING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: R9
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, US, IS, EG, XF, UR, SY, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
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